

Mid-East Prophecy Update – January 8th, 2012

- If you were to ask me which prophecy in the Bible was the most visible in it's beginning stages of fulfillment, it would probably be Ezekiel 38-39.
- The reason I believe this is because the geopolitical landscape is really beginning to take shape with all the nations listed in this prophecy.
- For the benefit of those who are new to this wonderful church, and or new to Bible prophecy, I'll give you a thumbnail sketch of this prophecy.

- About 2,500 years ago, God had the prophet Ezekiel record, by the Holy Spirit, a list of nations that would launch a nuclear attack against Israel.
- Ezekiel's prophecy has many details that leads the serious Bible students to the conclusion that this may comes to pass at, or after the rapture.
- Time does not permit me to get into all the nuances of this prophecy so suffice it to say, this alliance of nations will have Iran as one at the helm.

- It's for this reason, in concert with the breaking news from just this last week that Iran is once again at the helm of the present day threat of war.
- What follows are several headlines from credible news sources, all of which seem to indicate that this prophecy is beginning to come to pass.

The Washington Post - Israeli and US troops gear up for major missile defense drill after Iran maneuvers

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/israeli-and-us-troops-gear-up-for-major-missile-defense-drill-after-iran-maneuvers/2012/01/05/gIQAEOQqcP_story.html

DEBKA "Saudis, Gulf states on war alert for early US-Iran clash"

<http://www.debka.com/article/21620/>

Haaretz - Iran plans more military drills in Gulf amid tensions with U.S.

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/middle-east/iran-plans-more-military-drills-in-gulf-amid-tensions-with-u-s-1.405475>

Haaretz - Turkey FM to visit Iran for nuclear talks

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/middle-east/turkey-fm-to-visit-iran-for-nuclear-talks-1.405444>

The Telegraph - Hormuz oil spike could spark global recession

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/oilandgas/8990889/Hormuz-oil-spike-could-spark-global-recession.html>

ynet news - Report: Iran tells departed US carrier to 'stay out' of Persian Gulf

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4170572,00.html>

JTA News - Persian Gulf tensions mount as U.S. engages Israel on Iran

<http://www.jta.org/news/article/2012/01/02/3090967/persian-gulf-tensions-mount-as-us-engages-israel-on-iran>

The Telegraph - Royal Navy sends its mightiest ship to take on the Iranian show of force in the Gulf

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/defence/8997956/Royal-Navy-sends-its-mightiest-ship-to-take-on-the-Iranian-show-of-force-in-the-Gulf.html>

The Jerusalem Post - 'UK sends most powerful vessel to Gulf'

<http://www.jpost.com/IranianThreat/News/Article.aspx?id=252568>

Press TV - 'US deploys troops in Israel for Iran war'

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/219346.html>

The Telegraph - Can Iran close down the Strait of Hormuz?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iran/8995261/Can-Iran-close-down-the-Strait-of-Hormuz.html>

Associated Press - Oil jumps to near \$101 amid rising Iran tensions

<http://news.yahoo.com/oil-jumps-near-101-amid-rising-iran-tensions-055239353.html>

- I ended with the price of oil because there's another whole layer to this prophecy in verse twelve which says this is about a taking a "spoil."
- Lord willing, we'll look more in depth at this aspect of the prophecy at another prophecy update in the not too distant future if we're still here.
- Now, I'll bring today's prophecy update to a close by having you consider the first six verses in chapter thirty-eight of Ezekiel's prophecy:

Ezekiel 38:1-6 NKJV Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (2) "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, (3) and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. (4) I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company *with* bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. (5) Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them *with* shield and helmet; (6) Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah *from* the far north and all its troops—many people *are* with you.

- I am of the belief the nations that are listed can be as telling as the nations that are not listed. This has led many to ponder what happens first.
- I would suggest that Isaiah 17, which eliminates Syria, Isaiah 19, which eliminates Egypt, and Psalm 83, which eliminates the rest, happens first.

- For those of you whom like me are visual learners I created a graphic using Google Earth in order to get a visual of how this may play out.
- The yellow arrows are the nations that are listed in Psalm 83, and the white arrows, at least in part, are the nations listed in Ezekiel 38.
- However, we are still left with this enigma as it relates to the conspicuous absence of The United States from the pages of Bible prophecy.

"Where do you think America fits into Biblical prophecy?' I'm asked this question more--much more--than any other. People ask me this question at churches, at conferences, on radio and television programs. And as I have talked with my friends and colleagues who teach around the world, they confirm that the most-asked question in all of Bible Prophecy is, 'What is America's role in the end times?'"

Mark Hitchcock, "The Late Great United States," p. 5

- While the jury may still be out on the fate of the United States, it does seem plausible that the rapture of the church would decimate this nation.
- However, there are those who believe that America's absence may come vis-à-vis an economic collapse and an ensuing U.S. terroristic attack.
- Frankly, it could be all of the above! Either way, we need to be looking above, because if all this is happening now, how close are we really?

- I'm keenly aware that you tire of me quoting the words of Jesus in Luke's gospel 21:18, but I'm going to quote the words of Jesus in Luke 21:18.

Luke 21:28 NKJV Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."